WORKS IN PROGRESS

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Olympia City Council's assault on the homeless

Am I the victim or the crime?

by Dana Walker

Hey kids! After having escorted you in previous months upon exotic journeys through the tax-havens of the Cayman Islands and the board rooms of Goldman Sachs, we now shift our focus to the chambers of the Olympia City Council! On that note, it becomes my pleasure to announce some heartening news! In a true kumbaya moment the Olympia City Council has now bravely linked arms in solidarity with our federal and state governments in dealing with the economic crisis by adopting a policy of punishing the victims and ignoring the crime! Monied special interests everywhere cheer their action!

As visitors to downtown Olympia can attest, there are a lot of homeless people around these days. Since homeless people tend to piss off conservatives and embarrass liberals, many don't like having to see them hanging around everywhere. Thus, homeless policy in most locales consists of ignoring the underlying problem and instead trying to sweep the visible evidence under the rug so no one has to look at it.

On April 19, the Olympia City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting panhandling within 25 feet of any ATM or parking pay station. A few downtown businesses and their shills on the City Council are said to be the central drivers of this policy. They state that having lots of homeless people around causes shoppers to avoid downtown. There might indeed be a few anecdotal examples of this but overall I am pretty sure that this contention simply isn't true, so I am pretty sure that they have no evidence to back this contention up. However: Even if it is true, all I have to say is Tough kitties! Fix the damned problem! Don't just try to hide the symptom — especially if doing so involves further victimizing people, many of whom have already been victimized for their entire lives.

To put it plainly, this law sucks. To put it more plainly, this law sucks for a large variety of reasons. As bad as it is, though, the City Council also has on its agenda a "sit/lie" ordinance that would prohibit homeless people from hanging out on the sidewalk. This not only sucks, it is simply unacceptable. Like everyone else, homeless people need to be somewhere. Homeless people by definition do not have homes. They usually have little if any money. The only place they have to be is on the sidewalk. These new ordinances completely fail to address this fact.

In theory these laws apply to everyone; for instance, it will theoretically be just as illegal for Donald Trump to sleep in a doorway as it would be for a homeless person. In reality these laws are always consistently invariably 100% of the time selectively enforced everywhere that such laws exist. In the unlikely event that the police found Donald Trump sleeping in a doorway it is a pretty good bet he wouldn't be arrested or even ticketed. He would, in fact, probably be asked for his autograph.

Like everyone else, homeless people need to be somewhere. They by definition do not have homes. They usually have little if any money. These new ordinances completely fail to address these facts.

Most people know nothing about homeless people. However, most people think that they *do* know something about homeless people, most of it not good. As with most stereotypes, what most people think they know about homeless people is wrong. As with any demographic, homeless people are just as varied and diverse as any other demographic, if not more so. For instance, I am a homeless person myself. I was a business owner until I was put out of business by the $4 per gallon gas back in 2008. As is probably obvious from my writing, I am an educated and intelligent person. I would be the exception to the rule except there is no rule. Every homeless person is a unique human being with a unique life story and a unique view of reality. A highly disproportionate number of them are veterans suffering from PTSD. Many others have substance abuse and/or mental health issues. Many others are

▸ **HOMELESS,** continued on page 4

ANOTHER Biomass victory!

by Olympia Rising Tide

After many months of controversy, The Evergreen State College has decided not to move forward on the construction of a biomass gasification facility on its campus. The Evergreen Sustainability Council cited the Thurston County biomass moratorium and financial problems as the main reasons behind their decision. The decision came after many months of opposition from community members, students, faculty and groups like Olympia Rising Tide.

Olympia Rising Tide's "Nevergreen" campaign used rallies, direct action, banner hangs, and media work to expose the problems with the proposal and the process in which it was being pushed forward. Concerned Citizens of Thurston County played a major role in convincing the Thurston County

▸ **BIOMASS,** continued on page 11

Event to address the federal budget

by Chuck Schultz

What will you be doing on Sunday, May 22 at 1:00 in the afternoon? I'll be at Heritage Park until 3:30 working on turning the federal budget around. An event, called "Turn the Budget Around," will show how families can be healthy and happy when the government is short on cash. Find out what your neighbors are thinking and doing about the problem. This event is part of Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's Bring our Billion$ Home campaign. It inspires tactics to persuade Congress to attend to our needs.

Boxes will be arranged like bricks in a wall. Participants will decorate boxes to represent how the country spends our money. One side of the box represents military spending, the other shows what education, infrastructure, or social program the same money would support. Participants will build a wall of military spending, then rearrange it to produce the kind of social order they desire.

Lots of information will be shared. A Penny Poll will show how neighbors would like to spend their taxes. Other activities will give people a chance to express themselves about what the government should do.

Discussion and interactions at Heritage Park will guide responses to the dilemma. Singing, dancing, listening to music and especially artistic expression rule the day. Paints and crayons will be on hand. Bring your kids. They will surely enjoy decorating the boxes, building the wall and tearing it down. The Artesian Wellness Arkestra will play music. Also, a new group in town called, Today We Are, will play. Sean plays the accordion and Molly plays the cello...they create a lot of excitement and unusual sounds with their instruments. Jugglers will help us balance the budget with joy while others make peace cranes.

What parts of the proposed budget can be shifted to keep our society from eroding? In March, the Congressional Budget Committee took the position that the military budget would not be cut. Washington's 9th district representative Adam Smith, ranking member of the House Armed Forces Committee, supports a strong military. However on April 13th he said, "Going forward, we must focus on two major strategic points. First, every piece of the budget should be scrutinized for possible cuts. As Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Committee, I recognize that a comprehensive approach to reducing the debt includes examining defense spending."

Polls increasingly show a majority of Americans would prefer cuts to the military budget rather than cuts to funding for health and education.

Last year the Defense Department was the only federal agency to not submit to an audit last year. In fact, it has not been audited in the twenty years since it replaced the War Department. We agree with Congressman Smith that, in his words: "...all parts of the federal budget need to be on the table for a real discussion about how to fix our economic challenges." He appreciates "meeting with constituents to listen to concerns, answer questions, and discuss issues facing Congress, including the budget, military and veterans, healthcare and more."

Turn the Budget Around

May 22 in Heritage Park 1:00 to 3:30 pm

Music, dancing, and artistic expression!

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

Works In Progress is committed to stories misrepresented or ignored by the mainstream media. We value local, well-researched news stories, accounts of personal experience and reflections by local authors. Opinion pieces, also valued, are often best supported by facts, examples, and sources, and we encourage writers to include these elements to submissions. We're also looking for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that push the boundaries of conventional journalism.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite sources.

If your issue isn't being covered in Works In Progress*, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or haven't found someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *olywip@gmail* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues

WIP is archived on microfilm by the University of Washington Library. Some issues are held in the Timberland Library system. The last five years are online at www.olywip.org

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

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Diana Valenzuela
Berd Whitlock
Scott Yoos
and room for more...

COVER PHOTO BY MEESH RHEAULT MILLER

PAGE 1 GRAPHIC BY AL ZIMMERMAN

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:
May 20
PO Box 295
Olympia WA 98507
olywip@gmail.com
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(Be there for the first read!)

ADVERTISING RATES

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7.25″	x 4.75″	. . .	$125
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*** Special non-profit rates***

YOU SHOULD WRITE FOR WIP.

Business development at Harrison and Division?

A letter to the City Council from West Side businesses concerning the proposed 7-Eleven at Harrison and Division.

Dear Mayor and City Council,

We are local business owners in the vicinity of the intersection of Harrison and Division. We are writing to express our opposition to the proposal by the MAJ Development Corporation to construct a 7-Eleven retail outlet and an additional, yet undefined, Phase II on the SE corner of this intersection. This intersection is already overloaded and dangerous to pedestrians, drivers and transit riders to our businesses. It also poses significant dangers to students walking to Jefferson Middle School, driving to and from Capital High School and trying to reach the 41 bus stop on Harrison on their way to Evergreen.

The failure of this intersection also sends traffic down sides streets such as Cushing and Milroy, overwhelming these neighborhood streets and endangering pedestrians. There are no sidewalks on the NW side of Harrison. In addition, we already have two comparable food marts on or near that intersection. The Texaco Food Mart, originally a 7-Eleven outlet, is on the SW corner and our Westside Food Mart is only a block away on Harrison avenue. There is simply no need for another food mart.

Frankly, we do not understand why the city is spending our money facilitating the interests of a Toyko based multinational corporation (7-Eleven) and not supporting existing local businesses trying to serve this community in very difficult economic times. We know there is a long held community desire to establish a community park at this intersection. Why won't the city promote this? At a minimum the city should promote another local business that would add to economic health of our community rather than a foreign owned enterprise that takes money out of our community and overwhelms our failing infrastructure. We call upon you to stop this proposed 7-Eleven and meet the desires of local businesses and the people who live in our neighborhoods.

Trang Bui, Westside Nail Salon
Carolyne Hart, Olympia Framework
Julie England, Mandelins Consignment
Oliver Stormshak, Olympia Coffee Roasting
Rick Burdorff, Vics Pizzeria
Diane Gaile, Mariah Art Center
Pat Sarmento, Great Beginnings
Joanne Ponzo, Great Beginnings
Sheri Mackenzie, Always Travel Service
Rachel Lee, Vics Pizzeria
Toan Phung, Westside Food Mart
Jim Ammons, Day and Night Grocery
Tod Holmstrom, Terry's Automotive
Dustin Carter, Apollo's Pizza & Pasta
Don Ulrich, Yenny Music

A similar letter, signed by 106 Olympia residents, was sent to the MAJ Development Corporation, asking them to withdraw their proposed 7-Eleven project.

ZAHID UPDATE

by the Keep Zahid Home Campaign Committee

Many, many thanks to the supporters and rally attendees, friends and supporters from the Seattle area, and everyone who had driven up from Olympia and Lacey for the Chaudhrys' April 13th rally and court date in Seattle! What a super group! Also, much appreciation to the car drivers, sign makers, and photographers.

The group was courteous, quiet, orderly, polite, civil and considerate – yet the building "concierge" still locked the building down! No one was allowed in from our group, not even to use the restrooms. We were told the court was public, but the building was private and if they didn't want to let our group in – they weren't going to let us in! Only Duane King managed to step inside when the Chaudhrys were going up to their attorney's office just before 1 p.m. He stood his ground and he wasn't going to go back outside. (An interesting side note: the fellow who went into court right after the Chaudhrys had 7 other people with him, and they weren't blocked from the courtroom.)

The Chaudhrys had hoped for several outcomes at this court hearing:

- The judge would simply stop the deportation proceedings; or,
- The judge would grant a "continuance" until after the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals had heard the appeal case.

What happened was the judge chose May 24, 2012 for the Individual hearing. He asked to be informed what the 9th Circuit decision was, if it came up before then. He didn't give a "continuance," but still gave ample time for this bureaucratic blunder to end and for deportation proceedings against Muhammad to come to a halt.

Devin Theriot-Orr, the Chaudhrys' attorney, stepped outside to meet supporters and answer their questions.

He said that the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals had to power to send the case back to the U.S. District Court for a full hearing -- which it has never received. And that the most serious charge was a checked box on an application for an **unpaid** volunteer position with the Yakima Police Department, which Zahid had applied for early in 2001. The government alleged that Zahid "claimed" US citizenship on this application form and alleged he checked the "yes" box on the form.

Afterward, some supporters joined the Chaudhrys and went to the Federal Building where they delivered letters to both Senator Patty Murray and Senator Maria Cantwell. The letters reminded both Senators of many visits each had had with the Chaudhrys since 2003, reminding Senator Cantwell of her March 2011 promise to get the matter resolved, reminding Senator Murray of her position as Chair of the Veterans Affairs and her commitment to Veterans and that this matter should be a top priority, as Zahid is an honorably discharged, decorated, disabled Veteran.

Letters to WIP

Comment on April 8 rally

Dear Works In Progress:

I greatly appreciate the statement by Jeff Johnson in Works In Progress and applaud his leadership in bringing unions together as a fighting force against the horrible attacks on us made in the guise of budget cuts.

Thanks also to grassroots community groups such as Sisters Organize for Survival and the Olympia Fair Budget Coalition that pushed for the huge and invigorating community-labor rallies in Olympia on the Days of Action.

As a next step, I'd love to see the ommunity-labor coalition continue by holding public meetings where folks can plan civil disobedience to stop the draconian cuts in services. Building for a general strike should be a fruitful way to get the attention of the powers that be in both political parties.

And, I'd like to see a constitutional challenge to the new law requiring a 2/3 majority to raise taxes. Legislators are hiding behind it rather than taxing the rich folks and corporations.

In solidarity,

Henry Noble
IAM 751, retired and
Freedom Socialist Party

Bravo Sensible Washington!

I heard recently there was a controversy within the group "Sensible Washington," who is sponsoring Initiative 1149 to legalize marijuana in Washington State. The controversy was that some people wanted the new law to treat marijuana like alcohol (legal for adults, restricted for minors), while others wanted the initiative to legalize marijuana across the board.

As we know, marijuana is harmless for any age. But I wish to applaud SW for choosing to propose marijuana as age-restricted. It's all about the message, and how to assuage peoples' irrational fear of this harmless drug. There's a huge difference between the message "We should legalize marijuana, because street dealers don't check ID," and "We want your kids to smoke pot."

As activists, we often get tripped up with moral postures, and the idea that we should stick with a position simply because it's morally justifiable, even when it's sure to lead to defeat. But being successful in making some sort of tangible progressive change is a lot better than a morally-justified defeat. Activism is not about *being*, it's about *achieving*.

-Wally Cuddeford

JOIN THE ONE BIG UNION

JOIN OLYMPIA IWW

The Industrial Workers of the World is a union for all workers, dedicated to improving work conditions today and towards building a world without bosses, where production is organized by workers to meet the needs of the entire population, not just a greedy few.

The Olympia General Membership Branch of the I.W.W. meets twice a month at our downtown office to coordinate member-driven organizing efforts locally. We are actively seeking new members willing to build worker power in the South Sound.

To learn more about the I.W.W. and how to get involved with the Olympia Branch, please visit olympia.iww.org

WIP History

Every month, *WIP* reprints a relevant article from its 20 year history, or a new article on a historical topic. This month, we wish to pay tribute to historian Manning Marable, who passed away in April at the age of 60. Years ago, Dr. Marable gave permission to *Works In Progress* to reprint his national column "Along the Color Line," which *WIP* did nearly every month from 1992-2004.

March on Washington, D.C. – An assessment

by Manning Marable
September 1993

MANNING MARABLE
1950-2011

The national mobilization which culminated in the August 28, 1993, March on Washington represented a transitional moment in the history of black America. Perhaps as many as one hundred thousand Americans had pilgrimaged to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial under the protest banner of "Jobs, Justice and Peace." But the forces which gathered for this demonstration represented a wide variety of political and social interests, with conflicts in some instances simmering just below the surface.

The genesis of this March occurred last winter, in a series of informal discussions between members of what could be termed the "Civil Rights Establishment" – Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC) president Joseph Lowery, former SCLC organizer and Congressional delegate Walter E. Fauntroy, Urban League director John E. Jacob and Coretta Scott King. As veteran leaders of any social movement approach the twilight of their public careers, there is a tendency to reflect nostalgically about one's contributions to the historical record, and the great events iv which one participated. For this generation, the August 28, 1963 March on Washington was the seminal political event of their lives.

But a public exercise in collective nostalgia would not justify such a major endeavor. A second factor commanded the attention of the black leadership: the recognition that millions of African-Americans under the age of thirty-five no longer actively supported civil rights organizations. Political apathy towards the older liberal integrationist leadership runs deep, and not only among the "hip hop" generation, which turns to Public Enemy rather than Jesse Jackson for its political analysis.

Thousands of black urban professionals – "buppies" – who ironically have achieved their successes in the job market precisely because of affirmative action programs and the enforcement of civil rights legislation, refuse to join or donate to the NAACP, the SCLC, or Operation PUSH. They feel that these traditional liberal formations really don't speak to their needs or their generational concerns. This becomes strikingly apparent when one considers that the newly-appointed national secretary of the NAACP, 45-year old Benjamin Chavis, is widely described as a "youth leader" by the older set of civil rights bureaucrats. The veterans thus projected the 1993 march as a unique opportunity to "pass the torch" to the eager hands of a fresh generation of black activists.

There was one additional factor which motivated thousands to come to Washington D.C – general disappointment with the centrist policies of the Clinton administration. Clinton's inability to push through Congress a jobs bill last spring meant several hundred thousand additional unemployed young people in America's ghettoes this summer. The President's refusal to endorse a comprehensive, single-payer national health care system like Canada's would mean that millions of blacks, latinos and low income people will not have adequate health coverage. Clinton's failure to increase the minimum wage permits thousands of black families to dwell in poverty. His retreat from the nominations of a series of African-American progressives from positions within his administration, notably the refusals to appoint Spelman College president Johnetta Cole as Secretary of Education and law professor Lani Guinier as US Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, infuriated and outraged the black community.

Lowery complained sharply that he was deeply "disappointed" when the president "abandoned" Guinier, because it raised "questions about his commitment to the Voting Rights Act." Something had to be done to place the Clinton administration on notice that it could not simply take the black community for granted, ignoring its policy demands and urgent socioeconomic needs. Lowery favored some distancing between the civil rights agenda and the Democratic Party: "We ought to have permanent political principles-not permanent political loyalties... The (Democratic Party) often puts us on the expendable list, because we don't put them on the accountability list."

Clinton had to be reminded that 15.3 percent of his total electoral support in last November's election had come solely from black Americans. The majority of white Americans favored Bush over Clinton. By mobilizing the civil rights movement once again, the Democrats would be placed on notice that any erosion of black support today could spell disaster for those same politicians tomorrow.

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The sun towering above the crowd in Washington D.C. late last month was brutal. By noon, the temperature reached into the nineties, and a dull haze obscured the long view from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial back toward the towering Washington Monument. Tens of thousands of marchers clustered in hundreds of different groups, carrying posters, colorful banners and signs of all kinds. Veterans from the previous Marches on Washington in 1963 and 1983 embraced each other, and recalled the triumphant tragedies of their political past.

Although there was spontaneous singing and chanting in unison, the noise from the crowd was muted by the high humidity and overwhelming heat. The U.S. Park Police estimated at 3:30 p.m. that the crowd numbered some 75,000 people. NAACP leader Ben Chavis placed the size of the demonstration at 200,000. As I stood at the foot of the podium, looking back upon the waves of people, I roughly judged the gathering at 100,000, at least. But regardless of the specific numbers, the crowd was certainly one of the largest political demonstrations led by African-Americans in the twentieth century. People had come to bear witness to memory, and to find the road back toward a new militancy.

One sign of this occurred at the very beginning of the public addresses. As Eleanor Holmes Norton was speaking, the security perimeter which separated the large crowd from the speakers' tent and the media was breached. Over one thousand marchers tumbled forward onto the small seating area near the platform, and at the base of the Lincoln Memorial steps. Symbolically at least, the vast distance between the "leaders" and "followers" was at one accidental stroke eliminated.

The 1963 March on Washington's program had contained only thirteen speakers. By contrast, thirty years later, over sixty people were scheduled to take the podium. The spectrum of speakers crossed racial, ethnic, gender and ideological boundaries: actresses Eartha Kitt and Halle Berry; John Sweeney, President of the Service Employees International Union; Marian Wright Edleman, President, Children's Defense Fund; Phil Wilson, Director of Public Policy of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; William Gray, President of the United Negro College Fund; Cardinal James Hickey, of the U.S. Catholic Conference on Justice; Jose Velez, President of the League of United Latin American Citizens; Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado, a Native American; Norman Hill of the A. Philip Randolph Institute; John Jacob, National Urban League; Jose Serrano, the Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus; and Kwesi Mfume, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The major speakers included Coretta Scott King, AFL-CIO leader Lane Kirkland, SCLC leader Joe Lowery, and Chavis. The most dramatic presentation was delivered, not surprisingly, by Jesse Jackson. Drawing parallels between 1963 and 1993, Jackson observed that in both periods, a "conservative Congress" and a "young president" had failed to "deliver" on their promises to black people. Jackson demanded new federal initiatives for reform, including full employment legislation, an end to police brutality and racism within the criminal justice system, and the adoption of "a single payer national health care plan that makes health care a right for everyone." He explicitly denounced Clinton's North American Free Trade Agreement as a treaty "that will drag our workers down, and drain our jobs South." Jackson urged activists to go forward "to build new structures for freedom, new vehicles for hope in our quest to redeem the soul of America."

The major controversy to erupt at the March was the refusal by March organizers to permit black nationalist leader Louis Farrakhan to speak. Back on August 13, Rabbi David Saperstein of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism issued a "confidential and personal" fax to the top leaders of the mobilization – King, Fauntroy, Jackson, Chavis, and others. Saperstein observed that hundreds of Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout the northeastern states were going to be contacted to participate in the March. Unfortunately, Saperstein commented, two "major problems have arisen" which might culminate in the withdrawal of "all of the Jewish groups." Saperstein had been informed that "a tentative decision was made yesterday to invite Rev. Louis Farrakhan. I don't need to tell you," he noted, "what a devastating blow this would be to the solidarity of the coalition supporting the March." Saperstein also opposed the decision "to extend invitations to representatives of the Palestinian and Israeli peace delegations to speak." Although NAACP officials and other March leaders refused to comment directly on the Saperstein memo, some kind of discussion occurred between the principals over the potential controversy. A decision was reached not to permit Louis Farrakhan to speak. Even activists who are critical of Farrakhan expressed surprise at this decision, especially considering that he had been permitted to speak at the 1983 March on Washington. Despite this controversy, the March accomplished its major objective – revitalizing the spirit of activism in black America.

EL MACHETE
ILLUSTRATED
CUTTING THROUGH THE BULLSH
PhD
THREE DAYS BEFORE THE PUBLICATION OF HIS BIOGRAPHY ON MALCOLM X, WRITER HISTORIAN, ACTIVIST, MANNING MARABLE, HAS PASSED AWAY AT THE AGE OF 60.
1950-2011
BEYOND BLACK & WHITE
RACE REFORM AND REBELLION
JUSTICE
GARCÍA 2011

OOPS! Last month, *Works In Progress* printed three fantastic photos of the Planned Parenthood support rallies on page 15. Unfortunately, we mis-attributed them to Sarah Adams. The photos were actually taken by Meesh Rheault Miller.

▸ **HOMELESS,** continued from page 1

simply incapable of and/or unwilling to function in society for a wide variety of reasons. Some are kids who don't want to get trapped by the Machine. Some are lifetime hobos who don't want to get trapped by the Machine. Some (such as myself for instance) are enjoying a low-budget low-stress lifestyle after many years of living a high-budget high-stress lifestyle.

The City Council has already tried to sweep the homeless under a rug twice in recent history. Both times it ended up in an ugly, bitter and divisive battle that the council eventually lost, yet like some compulsive-obsessive child they just can't seem to stop picking at the scab.

Tuesday's city council meeting was revealing. Eight members of the public testified on the anti-panhandling ordinance. All eight strongly and passionately argued against it. Not one person argued in favour of it. Gus Kroll, who works with adults that have developmental disabilities, was especially eloquent and convincing. Mr. Kroll explained that many of his clients did not have the mental capacity to understand that it would be legal to panhandle here but illegal to panhandle there.

In shades of the "condos on the isthmus" controversy, the City Council ignored the obvious will of the people — or at least of the people who cared enough to testify — and passed the ordinance anyway. The vote was 5-2 with Stephen Buxbaum and Rhenda Strub being the only nays. There are some ironies here: In the "condos on the isthmus" controversy Rhenda Strub was one of the "yes" votes. For those of you who weren't here, 90% of the people of Olympia overwhelmingly vehemently and very vocally detested the idea of condos on the isthmus. The only people in favour were the builders who wanted to build them, a few others who stood to make money on the deal — and Mayor Mah along with every council member except two.

In my original article I implied that the only reason to vote for condos on the isthmus when virtually everyone in town was so vehemently opposed was because you were a shill for special interests. After reading this article Rhenda Strub called me and reminded me that she was originally *against* the condos on the Isthmus but then changed her vote as a protest when vandalism was done by condo opponents. After she said this, I remembered that this was indeed the case. She also said that she has *always* stood up for the homeless and for the helpless and a perusal of her past record confirms this.

When election time rolled around one council member, Karen Messmer — who originally supported the condos but then changed her vote due to intense public pressure — was so burned by the experience that she declined to run for reelection. Two other condo supporters, Jeff Kingsbury and Joan Machlis, lost their reelection bids; Kingsbury to Stephen Buxbaum after a dirty campaign wherein Kingsbury used a push-poll to try and discredit Buxbaum; and Machlis lost her seat to Jeannine Roe. Karen Rogers won the seat vacated by Karen Messmer on an anti-condo platform against a pro-condo opponent. The other pro-condo members, Mah, Ottavelli, and Strub, were not up for reelection.

Another irony here is that the evident central driver for the panhandling ordinance on the council — Jeannine Roe — defeated Joan Machlis on an anti-condo platform. The other evident central driver for the panhandling ordinance, councilmember Steve Langer, was appointed to the council replacing Joel Hyer after Mr. Hyer's resignation. Mr. Hyer had been the other vote against condos on the isthmus. He then went on to win his reelection bid. However, Mr. Hyer subsequently resigned in a rather sordid scandal wherein Mr. Hyer sold a small amount of marijuana to a "friend." Mr. Hyer was not a marijuana dealer. The "friend" to whom he sold the marijuana begged Mr. Hyer to sell it to him because this "friend" claimed to be depressed. This so-called "friend" turned out to be none other than defeated pro-condo councilman Jeff Kingsbury. It turns out that Mr. Kingsbury was working with the police and that the purchase of the marijuana was what is known as a "controlled buy," i.e. a purchase of marijuana that is instigated and controlled by the police in order to arrest the seller.

In other words, Mr. Hyer was set up.

Many speculate that what happened to Mr. Hyer was revenge for his dissenting vote on the condos...

When the anti-panhandling ordinance was introduced at Tuesday's council meeting Ms. Strub made a motion to postpone the vote until the issue could be studied more. Her motion was voted down. Jeannine Roe then made a motion to discuss and then vote on the ordinance immediately. Steve Langer seconded the motion. This motion passed.

As always when politicians are doing something reprehensible, they tried to justify the unjustifiable with specious rhetoric. Ms. Roe insulted everyone's intelligence by insisting that the ordinance was not meant to target homeless people even though almost any seven-year-old child could tell you that that is exactly who the ordinance was targeting.

Mr. Langer then spoke and revealed that he is a psychologist — thus establishing himself as an expert — and he stated that he did not believe Mr. Kroll's assertion that some of Mr. Kroll's clients would be unable to understand the ordinance. Since Mr. Kroll directly works full-time with these people, and since I myself personally know homeless people who would not have the mental capacity to understand such an ordinance, rather than establishing himself as an expert Mr. Langer instead revealed himself as one of those highly educated people who knows jack about real life. Mr. Langer insisted that rather than trolling for dollars from the downtown business

Art by Bethel Prescott

Steven Hall insisted the ordinance wouldn't target any specific demographic. Evidently Olympia will thus become the only city in the entire United States where such laws do not 'target any specific demographic'.

community he was instead basing his vote upon a desire to maintain a "civil society" in downtown Olympia. This assertion, of course, requires the underlying assumption that a society which forces mentally ill veterans to live on the streets and beg for their sustenance after risking their lives and frying their brains for their country is a "civil society" to begin with — an assumption that many might challenge.

To her credit Karen Rogers expressed a desire to rewrite the ordinance to make it clearer.

To her discredit Ms. Rogers then voted for it anyway.

Craig Ottavelli — who also voted for the condos on the isthmus and who is a noted shill for monied special interests — created some straw men and spouted some hollow garbage that I didn't even bother to write down and that I have since forgotten — to no one's great loss.

Mayor Mah, as seems his habit, said nothing. Mayor Mah, as also seems his habit, then voted for the interests of business over the interests of people.

The City Manager, Steven Hall, then further insulted everyone's intelligence by insisting that the ordinance wouldn't target any specific demographic. Evidently Olympia will thus become the only city in the entire United States where such laws do not "target any specific demographic." I found myself wondering if these people actually thought anyone believed a single word of this claptrap.

Chief of Police Ronnie Roberts was recently quoted repeating a popular right-wing talking point: "We want to give the homeless a hand up, not a hand out." The problem with Mr. Robert's assertion is that the funding for this "hand up" was recently cut off at the elbow. Mr. Roberts has also advocated extending the "no panhandling zone" to include restaurants, bars, and parking meters — or, in other words, to the entire downtown core.

Unfortunately for the city government their activities have now drawn the baleful and formidable eye of the local activist community — and that eye doesn't like what it sees. Already up in arms and breathing fire over the federal and state government's targeting of working people, students, and low-income families to pay for the crimes of the wealthy, even as the wealthy themselves skate away scot-free, the activist community is also flush from recent significant victories in this struggle. Among many other things, the local activist community recently garnered national attention when they occupied the state Capitol Building for several days in protest of draconian budget cuts targeting working people, schools, and low-income families while maintaining billions in tax exemptions for things like Wall Street banks, private jets, and cosmetic surgery.

The local activist community can be roughly divided into two wings. (I say roughly because there are many who are active in both wings.) The first wing consists of the organizers, planners, and strategists. These are the people who do all the hard work. These are the people who usually get things done. They are generally the older and more experienced activists. They tend to be pleasant and reasonable people who are willing to negotiate and — to an extent — they are sometimes willing to compromise.

Then there is the Direct Action wing; they spring into battle when the pleasant and reasonable people fail. They are the ones who picket, demonstrate, and engage in non-violent civil disobedience. They are the ones who wreak havoc and make the headlines. Generally, the Organizing wing does all the work and the Action wing gets all the attention. This is unfair and probably a comment upon our culture, but that is simply the way it is.

In the interest of full disclosure I must now reveal that I am myself a member in good standing of the Direct Action wing. I was, in fact, one of the organizers and participants in the occupation of the state capitol. As such I now wish to deliver two messages to the Olympia City Council:

1) We would like to serve notice upon the Olympia City Council that if you try to pass a "sit/lie" ordinance, then we are ready, willing and able to wreak havoc and cause disruption to business as usual in the City of Olympia. If you think people don't want to shop downtown now then wait until several of the local businesses that are supporting anti-homeless policies have a dozen boisterous and vocal demonstrators in front of their operations. Wait until shoppers suddenly find 4th Avenue blocked at the peak of rush hour by couches filled with activists who are chained to lampposts and to each other; activists who are willing to be arrested rather than to leave voluntarily. We are a very dedicated and very imaginative group of people. Take heed.

2) We strongly suggest that the Olympia City Council starts talking to the pleasant and reasonable wing of the activist community because if you fail to talk to the pleasant and reasonable people then you will soon find yourselves talking to me — and I can assure you that you would much rather talk to the pleasant and reasonable people. I am not pleasant, I am not reasonable, and I do not compromise. I tend to do things like wave signs in your face and shout at you through a bullhorn. Take heed.

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Adam Keller's Crazy Country Blog

Adam Keller is a long-time Israeli peace activist and the spokesperson for Gush Shalom, an organization that calls for a Palestinina state with pre-1967 borders.

What follows is an excerpt from his blog "Crazy Country." You can follow his blog at adam-keller2.blogspot.com.

Oded Pilavsky - 1932-2011

In June 1967, the occupation regime in the Palestinian territories was only a few weeks old. Most citizens of Israel were still in the grip of nationalist euphoria at the military victory and admiration for the victorious army (including, it must be noted, also the author of these lines). But even in those days there were people - a small group, and at the time very isolated - who came out in protest at the newborn occupation and condemned it in graffiti written at night on the walls of Tel Aviv.

"The Socialist Organization in Israel" was the official name by which they called themselves, those pioneers of the anti- occupation struggle, but the media – which often attacked and condemned them - usually called them "Matzpen" ("Compass"), the name of the paper which they published with considerable effort and sold on the streets (an act often involving a very real risk). .

One of the most prominent among this group was Oded Pilavsky, whom I always saw in demonstrations against the occupation during all the years in which I participated in them - and who had participated in a wide variety of demonstrations and struggles, long before there was an occupation, long before I was born. Last week, his brave and generous.heart stopped beating

From the article which he wrote about his life and his long and complicated political path, I chose to bring two excerpts, which are still highly relevant today.

Taking possession of "the abandoned harvest"

Kibbutz Mashavim (now "Mashavey Sadeh") of which I was a member belonged to Hakibutz HaMeuhad (United Kibbutz Movement), and there was a strong Left Zionist atmosphere. At the celebration marking two years of the Kibbutz's foundation we placed, at the corner of the hall where the celebration took place, a large wooden box inscribed with "Donations to support the Sailors' Strike". Representatives of two Bedouin tribes who lived nearby, Abu-Rgayyek and A-Sana, were also invited to take part in the celebration. They were given seat at the front of the hall, near the stage. (...)

Soon after that, at the end of the planting season in 1950, the Israeli Army expelled several Bedouin tribes from the Tel-Arad region across the Jordanian border. And that was not an isolated case. At the Negev Heights, other Bedouin tribes were deported across the border with Egypt. I was called upon to take part in what was termed "Harvesting the abandoned fields" near Tel – Arad. My participation in that act affected me deeply and sharpened my perception of the Zionist practice of ethnic cleansing.

That is how it was: The winter of 1950-1951 was exceptionally blessed with rain. The barley which the Bedouins had sown before their expulsion yielded a magnificent crop whose like is seen in this part of our country only once in a decade. It was the kibbutzniks, led by the army's Negev command, who immediately took possession and started harvesting the flourishing high corn, fruit of the labor of the Bedouin Arabs who had been expelled from the country after sowing. A tent camp was established there, for several weeks, to provide housing and meals to those who industriously carried out this task." Each Kibbutz was assigned a plot to be harvested. The barley grain was taken by trucks to the market. The proceeds distributed among the participating kibbutzim in proportion to their contribution to the common effort of the stolen ("abandoned"). harvest.

I was among the porters, taking up with great effort the full sacks of barley and transporting them from the fields to the camp and then onto the trucks to the market. Suddenly, in the middle of loading, the scales fell from my eyes and I finally started to comprehend what was happening there. A collectivist bunch imbued with Socialist ideals, equipped with the best of agricultural machinery purchased on credit from the Jewish Agency, was reaping- robbing the fruit of the labor of poor Arabs who had been expelled from their land and their country.

Who am I?

Toward any anti-Semite, I am a Jew

To adherents of Greater Israel, a Palestinian

To white supremacists, I am black

In face of rampant Israeli nationalism, I am a diaspora Jew

To Jewish megalomania, a gentile

For European Neo-Nazis, let me be an Arab, a Turk and a Kurd

To Xenophobes, a migrant worker

To women haters, a feminist

In the presence of aristocrats, I am a commoner

And with smug generals, a conscientious objector

- Oded Pilavsky, 2002

Oded Pilavsky had no funeral. He chose to donate his body to science. Instead, his family and friends held a memorial evening April 27 in Tel Aviv.

The long-awaited speech

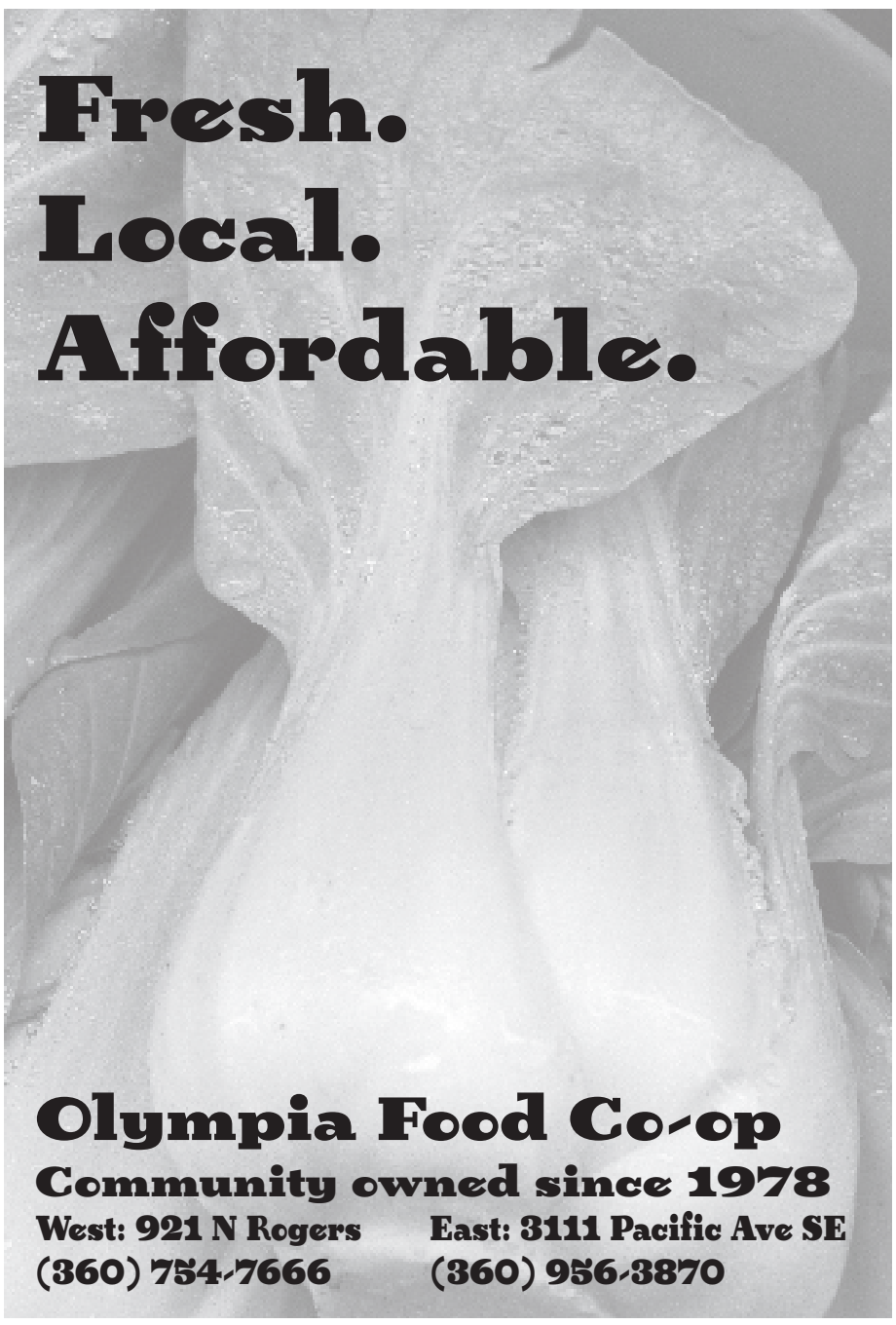
by Adam Keller

Ladies and gentlemen, I can hardly express how excited and pleased I am to appear today before you. Here on Capitol Hill in Washington I feel more at home than anywhere else in the world. Much more at home than on the Knesset floor in Jerusalem. There, I would never have delivered this speech, ladies and gentlemen, no way! No way, am I crazy? To make important political speeches in the Knesset? Of course it is true, thank God, that we have a solid right-wing majority in the Knesset. But still, we have there some black sheep, a few impertinent leftists, nasty people. They might have started heckling me or make some cynical remarks about my peace plans. Here with you, in Washington, such things cannot happen. I can be sure that, whatever I say, all of you will burst out clapping. And anyone who will not applaud loudly enough will be taken care of by AIPAC.

Well, in short, with you I don't need go into great detail. You already know what's what. We are a democracy, the only democratic country in the Middle East, and we share democratic values with you here in America (where's the applause and the clapping? Very good, very good.) We are surrounded by enemies and faced with the most dangerous threats. I've already explained to you a lot of times about the grave danger of Ahmadinejad, that nuclear bastard from Tehran. And there is also the threat of the new flotilla which is going to sail in the direction of the Port of Gaza next month. Just imagine, we have intelligence information that also this time they intend to take with them some kitchen knives! Our good boys in the Naval Commandos are preparing to block this threat. Or shall we actually confuse them and not block them after all? We will see, I have a meeting with the security people about that, next week.

Anyway, this is not exactly what I came to talk to you about today. I wanted to warn you specifically about Abu Mazen, yes, this bastard chick who had grown feathers and has by now become a real wolf in sheep's clothing. He has come up with a really nasty conspiracy. To create facts on the ground! Yes, you have heard right, he actually intends to create facts on the ground! He does not want to go on negotiating with us, that bastard. We are already negotiating for twenty years, and there was a very nice progress in the Peace Process. Another forty years, and we would come to some kind of agreement. Yes, definitely. At most, in fifty years. But these bastards don't want to go on negotiating, they want to create facts unilaterally, these insolent rascals. They want to get recognition as a state by the United Nations, come September. But you will not let them, will you! (More clapping, more clapping! Stronger! Stronger!). Excellent, excellent, I knew I could rely on you. The Palestinians have the UN General Assembly, but what is the UN compared to having the United States Congress in your inmost pocket?

Any questions? Of course not. Everything is clear, you know your mission and you will perform well, as always. See you in September, guys. What's this? Is this how you clap for your platoon commander? I can hear nothing. Harder, guys, harder, more clapping, more applause! Don't forget, when AIPAC is around, Senators have a good reason to shake! Guard your back, guys! See you in September!



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The Great Capitol Occupation

by Dana Walker

As most of you probably know there was a week-long action at the State Capitol last week to protest the draconian budget cuts. As usual, whenever there are budget problems our government, rather than going to the people who already have too much money, instead take programs away from people who literally have nothing else. Wall Street destroyed our economy and now everyone but Wall Street is paying for it. They continue to post record profits as our schools are being gutted. They receive multi-trillion dollar tax bailouts while we lose our homes and life savings. They receive massive tax exemptions and subsidies while our children are being thrown out onto the streets.

Do they really think we are going to stand for this?

Evidently so. Both the House and the Senate passed all-cuts budgets while maintaining huge tax exemptions for things like Wall Street banks, ($200 million) real estate brokers, ($401 million) private jets, ($10 million) and — believe it or not — for cosmetic surgery, ($12 million).

Here is a condensed version of events from the Week of Action in Olympia:

Tuesday 4/5

The Olympia Coalition for a Fair Budget and POWER put on a spectacular and well-organized show in the wind-driven rain. The participants gathered at the Rafah Mural and marched to the capitol with enthusiasm and joy. Music was interspersed with inspirational and knowledgeable speakers to fill the afternoon as a prelude to a "wedding" between corporation and state on the steps inside the rotunda. However, the wedding was not consummated as the People objected. Then the People tried to take their objections to Governor Christine Gregoire. She not only refused to hear them but she had the Washington State Patrol clear the hallway. Still, it was an inspirational and wonderful day.

Wednesday 4/6

On Wednesday the State Capitol Building was occupied by the actual people of Washington as we displaced the corporate non-people. Washington CAN organized a day of intentional disruption. We sent teams of dozens to send notes in to legislators, blocking the hallway where the lobbying is generally done. Thus lobbying came to a standstill as business as usual became business as very unusual. We filled the Senate Budget Committee to capacity and then several hundred of us stood just outside the window as the 98% of us who don't have lobbyists were finally heard from — very loudly. Then we laid our sleeping bags and air mattresses out in the rotunda. At 8 o'clock, the Washington State Patrol asked us to leave — but also announced that they would not be arresting anyone. We were home.

Thursday 4/7

The occupation continued! At first they tried to lock all the doors except the east door. and only allowed employees and lobbyists in, thus proving that lobbyists have much more "free speech" than the people do. We broke out guitars and drums and around forty of us started partying just outside the east door. I solicited donations from everyone entering and leaving the building so we could buy our own senator and thus be able to enter our building. (Go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAef5w4dxEM for an excellent video of this event that was filmed by Devin of Uncut Tacoma. Yes, that is yours truly playing flute in the opening sequence and the guitar just after the five-minute mark.) Then the Progressive Caucus in the Senate joined our party in solidarity and stopped senate business until we were allowed in. That worked. We finally gained access to our building. The People partied all night in the People's House! Drums, flutes, guitars, cops, and reporters abounded! A good time was had by all!

Friday 4/8

We occupied again last night after a massive labor rally sponsored by organized labor that was attended by many thousands. There was also a lecture by Alice Walker downtown that same night. The police assured us that attendees of this talk would be able to join us afterward. Instead, the police locked the doors at 8 and wouldn't allow anyone else in. Thus, after the Alice Walker event several dozen people joined on the steps and we ended up with a two-pronged inside/outside occupation. They wouldn't allow our instruments inside the building this time, but the party on the steps had accordion and drums. To honour the fact that the Wisconsin occupiers sent us pizzas that night, Uncut Olympia officially announced that they would send pizzas to anyone else who occupied their own state house.

Saturday 4/9

Washington Governor Christine Gregoire has proven herself once again to be a masterful politician. (Believe me: I do not mean that as a compliment.) As day four of the Great Capitol Occupation began yesterday, things at first appeared to be the new abnormal normal. As the House debated their reprehensible all-cuts budget our local Uncut goddess organized a note-writing brigade; we overwhelmed the lobbyists and flooded the floor of the House Chamber with notes in opposition to the proposed budget cuts. After passing the budget anyway the representatives then left the building amidst our cries of "SHAME! SHAME!"

Shortly after adjournment, the doors to the building were locked. Just as we were starting our meeting in preparation to breaking into educational workshops, the head of the GA, Joyce Turner, appeared. She delivered a letter to an occupying mother who had two children with her that Governor Gregoire had personally written asking that our compatriot take her children and leave.

We instantly knew what this meant.

Sure enough, the state police rep then called us into a meeting to "discuss the rules" for the evening. After we gathered in a semi-circle holding hands the rep said, "The party is over." (There were several objections to referring to our action as a "party"; while it was indeed much more than merely a "party," I have referred to it as such on more than one occasion myself, so I was not one of the objectors.)

Nine new heroes to the movement — mostly 20-something Evergreen kids who had never before been arrested — refused to leave. Also included in their ranks were Nik of US Uncut and the experienced movement hero Christal Wood, an attorney famous for suing DSHS over their Work First program. (See http://www.realchangenews.org/index.php/site/archives/3794/ for an excellent article about some of Christal's activities.)

Amidst much chanting and cheering, the State Police, rather than arresting them, instead physically picked them up, carried them outside, and set them down again. They were issued warnings stating that they were not allowed on the Capitol Campus for 30 days — an order of dubious legal standing that may be challenged. Christal refused to cooperate, at first insisting that they arrest her, but she finally acceded upon realization that they were absolutely not going to do so. (Governor Gregoire had obviously issued orders that there were to be no martyrs.)

Thus ended the Great Capitol Occupation.

Correction: Thus *began* the Great Capitol Occupation. As we left, we chanted, "We'll be back! We'll be back!"

Press Conference, Tuesday, 4/12

On Tuesday, April 12th, several of the most prominent activists in the state — including representatives of labour, students, and low-income families — attended the press conference wherein the Senate unveiled their budget proposal. As far as the activist community was concerned, the press conference was a wash. Monica Peabody, the director of POWER, and Eli, representing the "Occupying 9" (those who risked arrest when they refused to leave the Capitol Building when ordered to do so by the State Police) had prepared statements that they wished to read to the assem-

▸ **CAPITOL**, continued on page 11

Flip the funding

Sisters Organize for Survival pushes unions to lead fight in Washington State

by Gina Petry

While politicians in Olympia strive to balance an "all-cuts" budget, Sisters Organize for Survival (SOS), a campaign of Seattle Radical Women, says poor and working people cannot take another round of shredding the safety net.

SOS is mobilizing in response to Governor Christine Gregoire's budget proposal that seeks to close the deficit by raising tuition for higher education, eliminating the Basic Health Plan relied on by tens of thousands of low-income people, reducing funds for food stamps and childcare, and other devastating measures. Gregoire, a Democrat, already suspended cost-of-living increases for state workers and is proposing additional wage and benefit cuts.

People who rely upon state programs are going to be hurt badly at a time of desperate need. And workers who provide critical services are accused of being greedy for trying to hang on to livable standards.

Fight back together

To resist these broad-scale attacks, SOS initiated a petition drive in January. Signers called on labor leaders to go on the offensive through organizing a united mass protest of workers and the community in the state capital, Olympia.

Unions are the organized representatives of the whole working class, which is the real target of budget cuts. SOS felt it was time for unions to stand up for their members and the community rather than continuing to hope Democratic politicians would come to their aid. Unions have the ability to mobilize masses of people and rouse the militant spirit so needed today.

The petition proposed a rally that would pressure legislators to tax profits of huge companies, end corporate tax giveaways, and lobby Congress to end U.S. wars and redirect funding toward crucial needs.

In only seven weeks, 2,600 signatures were gathered. SOS representatives spoke at 20 union meetings and petitioned at dozens of community events. From the Building and Construction Trades Council to the Seattle Education Association, the response by rank-and-file unionists was tremendous. They were anxious to see the labor movement fight back across union lines.

One of the people to whom the petition was addressed, Washington State Labor Council President Jeff Johnson, told SOS he was impressed by the number of signers and supported the concept of a mass labor-led rally. General sentiment for such a rally was expressed on Feb. 21, Presidents Day, when about 2,500 people showed up at the state Capitol for a "Rumble in the Rotunda" called by the Washington Federation of State Employees. The turnout no doubt reflected both the weeks of education by SOS and the inspiration provided by insurgent Wisconsin workers. Now the state labor council and other unions and community groups are organizing a week of actions in April.

Follow the money

SOS wanted concrete answers for where money could come from to preserve social services and jobs. It devised an alternative budget called "Flip the Funding" that advances a radical reorientation on state revenue and spending. It demonstrates that the legislature is not considering revenue measures that impact business. The SOS plan shows a hefty surplus is possible by ending all business tax exemptions (also known as loopholes) except for the small-business tax credit, suspending interest payments on state loans, and initiating a windfall profits tax on oil companies. See the full proposal at *www.radicalwomen.org/budget_brochure_2011.html.*

"Flip the Funding" leaflets were distributed far and wide at protests, grocery stores and union meetings. Its thought-provoking solutions garnered great interest and provided lyrics for a protest song by members of an Olympia group, POWER (Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights)!

SOS will continue pushing for utterly needed joint action. Its blend of grassroots mobilizing that pushes labor officials to lead on a militant program is a model that will help others struggling to build a secure future. It's beyond time for states to stop taking care of business, as usual, and start taking care of people!

Gina Petry, coordinator of the Sisters Organize for Survival campaign, is a healthcare social worker for an HMO. Email her at ginap77@yahoo.com.

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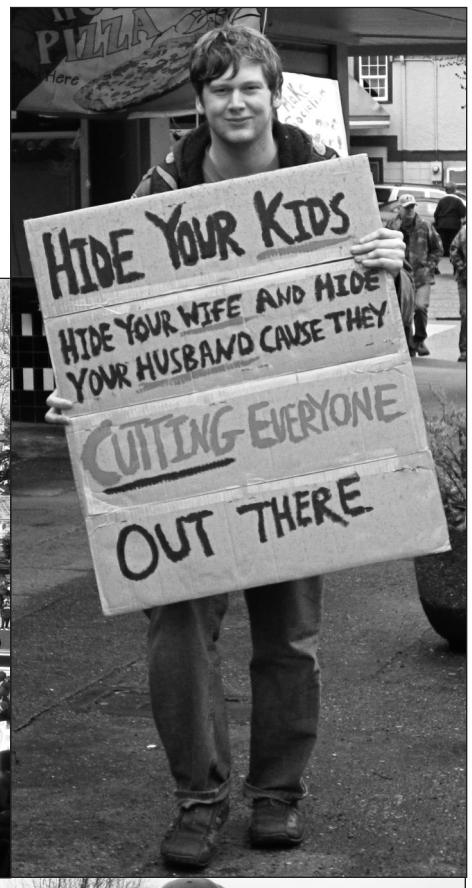
The Week of Action



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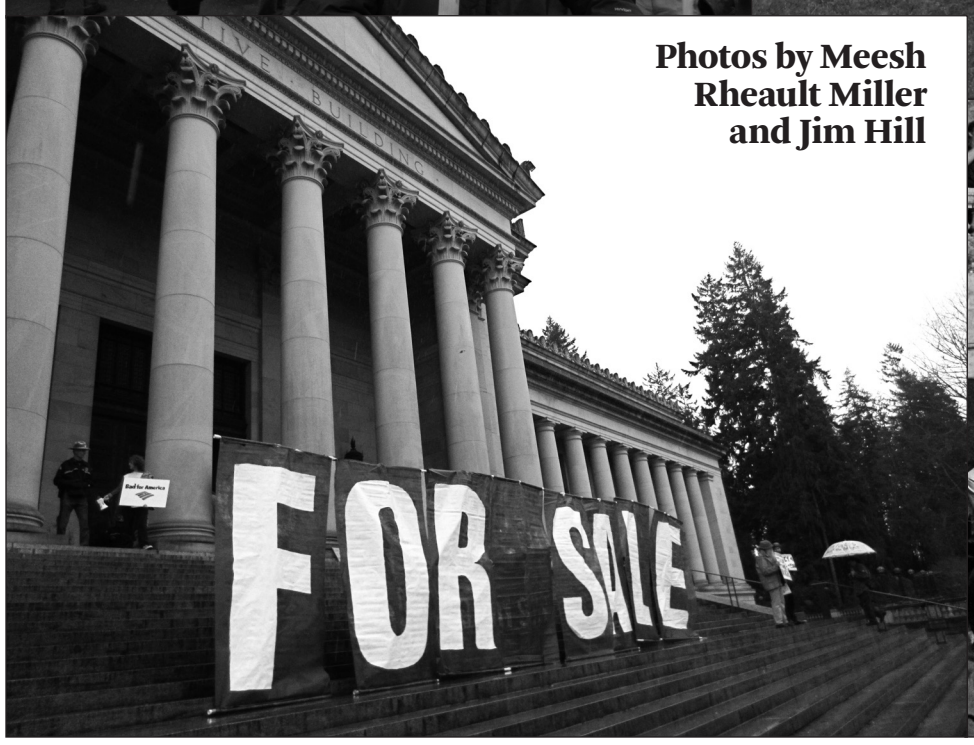

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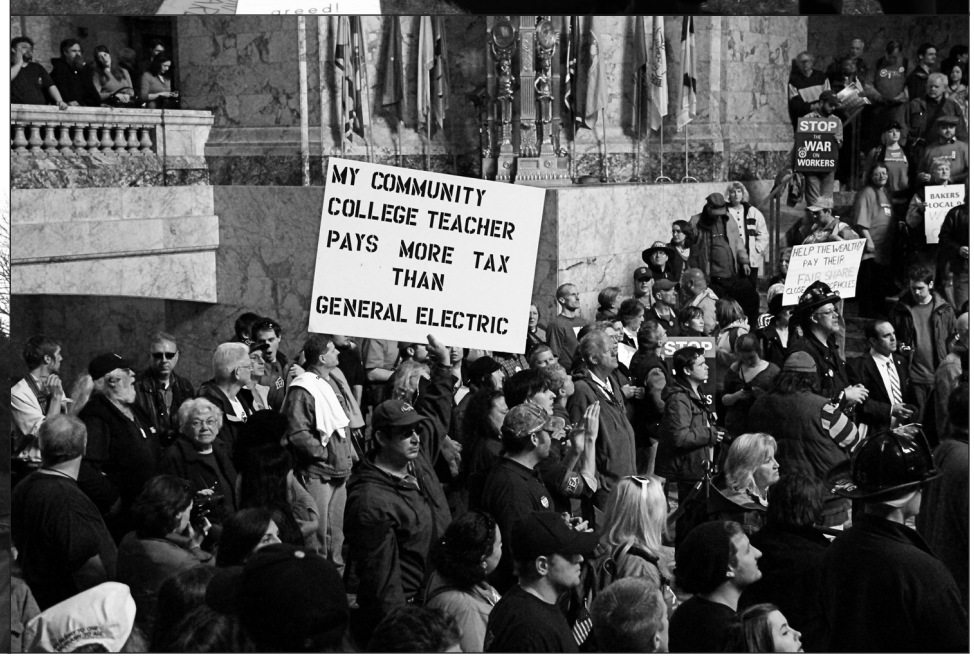

The past is the future...

by Wally Cuddeford

"The long memory is the most radical idea in America."
-Claire Spark
(Often misattributed to Utah Phillips)

I was talking politics with a friend of mine, and I started to point out a number of similarities between the current attacks on labor unions in the Midwest and elsewhere, and the rise of fascism in Nazi Germany. You know, how Adolf Hitler outlawed unions, scapegoated disempowered people for the ills of society, made appeals to nationalist patriotism as he dissolved the institutions of democracy, consolidating and strengthening corporate power. Stuff like that. I didn't get very far. He immediately stopped me, and told me he didn't want to hear any comparisons like that because, as he said, "they scare the Hell out of me."

As an activist, that response puzzled me. "Well, don't you want to *know* the truth? I mean, it is what it is, right? It's not like your knowing what's happening will make things worse. If anything, knowing what's going on right now could inspire you to help make it better in the future." He wasn't the only one. At my last job at a gas station, I was reading a book on the genocide of Native North America, and after that it was Fanon's *Wretched of the Earth*. One regular customer asked me, "How can you read stuff that's so negative and depressing?"

Well, the answer is, because reading about history - "depressing" history, *real* history - informs me about what's happening right now, today. To be completely honest, I don't *really* care what life was like in pre-revolutionary Algeria, but I do care very much what life is like today, or what it may be like tomorrow.

What many people don't realize about politics, especially in the U.S., is that very little actually changes. Sure, you can point to certain decades, events and reforms (and regressions), but none of those actually change the *nature* of the core political forces at work. Those forces are constant. Only the terms of the struggle change. But the "experts" narrow in on those superficial characteristics, the current focus of the struggle, trying to convince you that it's a whole new ballgame.

What many people don't realize about politics, especially in the U.S., is that very little actually changes. None of the events change the *nature* of the core political forces at work.

In 1992, Ballot Measure 9 in Oregon would have, among other things, legalized open discrimination and hate against LGBTQ residents (or as they used to say in those days, against "gays and lesbians"). In the months leading up to the election, as the gay debate intensified, a flurry of homophobic hate crimes swept the state. Homes were vandalized and set on fire. Several gay residents were viciously attacked. Some Measure 9 opponents found their cars had been sabotaged in the night, their brake lines cut or the wheels loosened from the axles. Community churches that had come out in opposition to Measure 9 were also attacked. Meanwhile, the religious right engaged in a heavy media campaign, portraying homosexuality as inherently sinful and deviant, while suggesting society should protect "the rights of the moral majority." Ultimately, Measure 9 was defeated (although similar laws were passed elsewhere).

The age group to vote most heavily in favor of Measure 9 was 30-44. But interestingly enough, the age group to vote most heavily against Measure 9 was not the youthful, forward-thinking 20-somethings. Rather, it was *voters age 60 and over.*

So how, you might ask, did the 60-and-over age block suddenly become the cutting edge of progressive values at the height of the struggle for gay equality in Oregon? Of course, the best way to answer that question would be to *just ask 'em*, which people at the time did. For many of them, World War II set the stage for their formative adult years; in fact, many of them fought in the war. The older the voter, the more total their memory of fascism's rise to power in Europe, and the rhetoric through which the right-wing consolidated their power. Additionally, many elderly voters were old enough to remember the 1920s, when the Ku Klux Klan was active in Oregon. The Klan held big colorful parades right through neighborhood streets, while speaking of defending "the rights of White Christians." Interracial marriage was illegal, based on the justification that it was "abnormal and unnatural." The Klan burned Catholic churches, and in 1922, they helped pass a voter initiative which *outlawed Catholic schools*. (Incidentally, Catholics voted against Ballot Measure 9 by a 2-to-1 margin.) The elderly had this perspective, and the thought of all that happening again disturbed them in a way only they could understand. The younger generations just didn't know.

I like some Baby Boomers personally, but only the Baby Boom Generation could have come up with something as arrogant as "Never trust anyone over 30."

They say you had to have been there. Elementary school teachers from the 1970s have described their experiences teaching their classes about the 1969 moon landing. Young children's faces would light up with awe and wonder the moment the teachers broached the subject ... until about 1976 or so. Then, suddenly, that awe disappeared. "Oh, the moon landing? Yeah, that's cool, I guess. Whatever." I suppose, to really understand something like the moon landing, you had to have been alive and attentive for it, when this centuries-old threshold, this ageless focus of wonder and imagination, this certain impossibility of human beings actually reaching the *freaking moon* and setting their feet upon it (well, a couple privileged humans setting their feet upon it, anyway), was conquered through modern science, in view of a global television audience. And those new children of the '70s just didn't know how incredible that was, because they weren't there for it. (Come to think of it, neither was I.)

Today's events are being actively transcribed to the Internet, ostensibly freezing this moment in time into perpetuity, with much more accuracy and in much finer detail than any era before. Still, I doubt history will appreciate the contentiousness, or the passion, or the wonder, or the fear of our era. Call it a hunch. First of all, that relies on a "now-centrist" viewpoint, which assumes things are any more contentious or passionate today than, say, in the 1990s, or in the 1960s, or in the 1930s. But more to the point, like history, the Internet is only made up of people. People have been telling the stories of the tumultuousness of their day going back as far as we can remember, and yet every time the cycle comes around, there's always more than a few someones who say we're approaching "the end of history."

In the U.S., we have a tyranny of class, and this tyranny loves the great American electoral tradition, the participatory spectacle of "Shut up, vote, and shut up again."

In 2004, I remember many people being crushed that George Bush was reelected. Do you remember that? I can say I got plenty irritated after the election by the arrogant, echoing refrain of "Four more years!" Some thought we might never emerge from the age of Republican rule and hyper-imperialism. (This of course assumed we even *entered* an age of hyper-imperialism in the first place, and weren't already there to begin with.) On an extreme note, I even remember some people predicting that the Republicans were going to cancel the next elections and "King George" would become President for Life. *Obviously* that was never going to happen, if for no other reason, then because that isn't how this racket works. Moammar Qaddafi does that because he has to, because he's a tyranny of one. In the U.S., we have a tyranny of class, and this tyranny loves the great American electoral tradition, the participatory spectacle of "Shut up, vote, and shut up again." Once you understand how a system works, its twists and turns appear a lot less twist-y and turn-y.

I knew Obama would be elected in 2008, even by mid-summer. In retrospect, I wish I had carved that idle prediction in stone, but I did tell my friends. They shared videos on the Internet of backwoods racists asking the camera why anyone in their right mind would vote for a man named "Barack *Hussein* Obama." My friends were terrified that the racists would decide the election. I didn't support Obama myself, but I assured my friends that their guy was going to win hands down. So many people were absolutely **bonkers** for Obama in '08. It was incredible! Everyone was a 10-year old girl, and he was all three Jonas Brothers. (Or "all five New Kids," if you're old school like that.) There was *no way* Obama was going to lose. Not that my assurances got through to my friends. They were so tense right up until Election Day, until the totals came in, and then they were crying and partying in the streets with everyone else. (I wonder if that party's still going on?)

One day, we'll look back on 2011 with much greater perspective on our tumultuous times than we have now. Unless, of course, we take our history for granted along the way.

You can measure the repressiveness of a regime by how long the national memory is. I doubt many would argue that China is the most repressive government in the world today, and their national memory is also the shortest: about five hours. Five hours is how long it took, from the time the tanks surrounded Tiananmen Square, until the time the massacre was over. As of that moment, the most potent political event in that country in the last fifty years never happened (which is to say, anyone who mistakenly remembers these non-events, or who acts in accordance with a belief that such non-events happened, is jailed, fired, killed, purged, or otherwise disappeared). In 2007, three editors of the Chinese newspaper Chengdu Wanbao were fired after the paper accidentally printed an advertisement which was dedicated to "the mothers of the victims of 4 June." Apparently, the clerk in charge of approving ads was too young, and didn't know what "4 June" referred to, or why it should have concerned her.

In the United States, our national memory is longer than five hours, but not impressively so. 9/11 in particular pushed a big reset-button on our national memory. It's only now, 10 years later, that we're starting to remember that there were years with names like "2000," and the even more mythic "1999." If you don't believe there's a memory gap there, consider that *less than two years* before the World Trade Center was reduced to rubble on live TV, *less than two years before that*, Bill Clinton's impeachment testimony on VHS (courtesy of the Kenneth Starr investigation) was on the "new release" wall of your local video store. *Less than two years.* Or, if you'd rather look at it this way, the anti-globalization movement of the '90s, building ever since the passage of NAFTA in 1994, converged on Seattle, triumphantly shutting down the ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization. *Less than two years before.*

When our national memory fails us, we tend to refer to it as a "memory gap," which implies a span of time for which we cannot recount the significant arc of events – a gap to be filled in. But more frequently, we suffer from the opposite of a memory gap – a short, unremarkable span of time will be extended in retrospect, as if that which happened before and that which happened after are of two wholly different eras, and are therefore independent of each other. Certainly, that's what happened to the first eight months of 2001, along with 2000 (which we seem to remember only for its notable presidential election and nothing else). When you think about it, the 1960s and the 1990s were barely separated by a hiccup. Most of the same people were still around between the two decades. And yet in 1996, when a rash of arsons directed at Black churches swept through the South, it was framed in the media as some kind of aberrant, distant echo of an era long forgotten. I have to believe, if we were talking about a rash of arsons in 1896, there wouldn't be any confusion as to the connection to the national politics of the 1860s.

History always seems so tidy after the fact. Here in the U.S., this is due in large part to the simplistic nature of the type of history we teach our children (and thus, the history we teach ourselves). The Nazis fell because they were evil. The slaves were freed because it was right. Obviously, women were allowed to vote. Apartheid ended because no decent human being would support it. The Americans with Disabilities Act was a no-brainer. And equality for "gays and lesbians" was all rainbow flags and pride parades.

Of course, none of it actually happened that way. Slavery was incidentally abolished (and only by name) once the North seized power. The battle for women's suffrage was fought for decades on a state-by-state (or territory-by-territory) basis, proving perhaps even more contentious than the fight for reproductive freedom today. Apartheid survived as long as it did because it in fact had a lot of supporters (as it does now). Before World War II broke out, many prominent Americans endorsed Hitler. And

▸ **CONTINUED** on next page

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Black churches burned in 1996 because the politics behind racism and bigotry never did go away – in fact, those politics didn't even take a hiatus.

There are limitless examples of the untidiness of history. In 1896 (yes, *that* 1896), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Plessy v. Ferguson* that forced racial segregation was perfectly legal (later overturned). In 1932, in *Powell v. Alabama*, the high court ruled 7-2 that the state couldn't deny defendants access to legal counsel *and* sentence them to death, overturning the decision by the Alabama Supreme Court that went 6-1 the other way. In 1944, in *Korematsu v. United States*, the Supreme Court ruled the interment of Japanese-Americans in "exclusion zones" was constitutional. (This was never actually overturned, and thus stands as law today. Fred Korematsu was eventually exhonorated for evading internment ... *in 1983*.) In 1972, the court abolished the death penalty, then re-established it in 1976. 1989 was a busy year, as the court ruled in *Penny v. Lynaugh* that it's legal to execute the mentally retarded, and in *Stanford v. Kentucky* that it's legal to execute people for crimes committed when they were 16 or 17. (Both were later overturned). Cincinnati voters passed the equivalent to Oregon's Ballot Measure 9 in 1993; those same voters repealed it in 2001. Chief Leschi of the Nisqually Nation, who was executed in 1858 for allegedly killing White settlers, was formally exonerated of the crime in 2004, yet Leonard Peltier still sits in prison today (no doubt awaiting his regret-filled exoneration in 2162). While gay marriage is beginning to look more and more like a future certainty (thanks to the hard work of civil rights activists), currently it's a state-by-state struggle, with some states fully legalizing it, some recognizing the legal marriages of other states without legalizing it themselves, and others explicitly forbidding it altogether.

Sometimes, you get the feeling that things seem vaguely familiar. And then there's times when you know you've read this book before.

On September 27, 1994, 15 years before the "Tea Party," 367 current and prospective Republican congresspeople gathered on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to sign what they called the "Contract with America." As the introduction to the Contract itself stated:

"This year's election offers the chance [...] to bring to the House a new majority that will transform the way Congress works. That historic change would be the end of government that is too big, too intrusive, and too easy with the public's money. It can be the beginning of a Congress that respects the values and shares the faith of the American family. Like Lincoln, our first Republican president, we intend to act 'with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right.' To restore accountability to Congress. To end its cycle of scandal and disgrace. To make us all proud again of the way free people govern themselves."

Setting aside the particulars of their right-wing agenda, the Contract was a brilliant political maneuver. The Republicans had not held a majority in Congress since 1954, and were constantly fighting uphill battles against incumbent-bias. Capitalizing on the frustration of working Americans over the inability of lawmakers to resolve their economic woes, the contract provided a seemingly no-nonsense itemized agenda, addressing issues related to the economy (if not actually addressing the economy itself) as well as other buzzword topics of the day, such as crime (of course meaning street-level crime, not white collar crime). The Contract contained a pledge that, if elected, each of these agenda items would be implemented no later than 100 days after taking office. As soon-to-be Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich declared, "If we break this Contract, throw us out!"

A key figure in the success of the Contract with America was political consultant Frank Luntz (who most recently has worked for Fox News). To give you an idea of his approach to politics, Luntz once asserted that "To be 'Orwellian' is to speak with absolute clarity." Luntz brought a linguistic savvy to the Republican political machine, which had been lacking in previous years' campaigns that had focused more heavily on religious rhetoric, and openly anti-gay bigotry. Luntz described his approach as follows: "80 percent of our life is emotion, and only 20 percent is intellect. I am much more interested in how you feel than how you think." For instance, Luntz was the one who realized that calling it a "death tax" resonated much more with voters than calling it an "estate tax" or an "inheritance tax." Why would anyone support a *"death tax"*? And thus, people who will never actually be liable for the estate tax, and who benefited both from attempts to break up oligarchic wealth and from the potential for social spending that money would provide, vote against the "death tax" and against their own interests. Thanks in part to Luntz' work, Governor Scott Walker today can speak of "right to work" legislation (union-busting) and actually spin it as pro-worker, that he's actually *giving* workers rights – namely the "right" to forsake and disempower their collective bargaining.

The 1960s and the 1990s were barely separated by a hiccup. And yet in 1996, when a rash of arsons directed at Black churches swept through the South, it was framed in the media as a distant echo of an era long forgotten.

In the summer of 1994, Luntz conducted several focus groups, testing the proposed components of the Contract with America. Only those provisions that scored 60% or higher favorability rating were included. Thus, right-wing staple issues of the day – prayer in schools, repealing affirmative action, a proposed constitutional amendment banning abortion, federal legislation mirroring Prop 187 (Oops, I mean "SB 1070"), anti-gay legislation – were abandoned, at least for purposes of their campaign platform. Instead, the itemized list included such things as the "Family Reinforcement Act," the "Taking Back Our Streets Act," and the "American Dream Restoration Act." The rhetoric focused on a message of *"We're gonna cut your taxes, and we're gonna make you safer,"* while taking time to scapegoat single mothers and their children on public assistance for the economy's woes.

Once the Republicans were swept into power, a horde of wide-eyed freshmen legislators began enacting much of their proposed legislation. But the people who voted the Republicans in didn't get exactly what they thought they were voting for. The tax cuts that were spoken of didn't go to the people who needed them. Instead, corporate taxes and capital gains taxes were reduced, taxes for the wealthy and the upper-middle class were reduced (at the expense of the lower-middle class and the poor), corporate subsidies were increased, labor power was undermined, and social spending was gutted. Other surprises were neatly tucked away within the Contract as well. The "Common Sense Legal Reform Act" weakened product liability laws, put limits on damages one could receive, and instituted a "loser pays" policy, putting a heavy burden and risk on individuals or consumer rights groups who choose to pursue legal action over dangerous products.

One interesting item that came under attack in 1995 was perhaps the single most important piece of civil rights legislation in the U.S. since the 1960s: the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. From the beginning, the National Federation of Independent Businesses called the ADA "a disaster for small businesses." Pat Wright of the Disability Rights Education Fund observed "People are dying to jump on the ADA," which at that point was still only five years old. While the ADA was never explicitly listed in the Republicans' campaign pledges, people began reading between the lines. The ADA, along with various environmental regulations and other programs, were broadly targeted by Republicans as "unfunded mandates," meaning, in enacting this legislation, the federal government had dictated additional expenses to local governments and to private business, without allocating money to cover these expenses. As part of the Contract with America, the so-called "Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act" (which did neither, not even on paper) required Congress to fund such mandates in the future, empowered businesses to disregard unfunded mandates, and allowed property owners (including corporations) to seek compensation from the federal government if legislation devalued their property (like, for instance, when old facilities are no longer accessibility-compliant). No exception was given to the ADA, even though its inclusion in these de-regulations was made apparent, nor did the Republican majority use all those fiscal smarts they claim to have to *find* ways to fund these mandates they were so concerned about – perhaps by not cutting taxes for the wealthy *quite so much*. (In 2008, George W. Bush signed legislation strengthening the ADA, so that "debate" appears to be behind us.)

On Nov. 14, 1995, the federal government shut down, suspending "non-essential" services. "Non-essential" government employees were put on furlough, costing them $400 million in pay.

Bill Clinton, while signing much of the Contract with America legislation into law, fought the Republican majority on the subject of spending cuts. Clinton vetoed a budget bill which cut spending on education and the environment. Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House, responded by refusing to raise the debt limit, thereby cutting off funding until a bill could be agreed upon. Thus, starting on Nov. 14, the federal government shut down, suspending "non-essential" services, and putting "non-essential" government employees on furlough. A temporary spending bill re-opened government on Nov. 19, but that soon expired, and the government shut down again on Dec. 16. The cost of the shutdown was deep: Furloughed workers lost $400 million in pay for the days they were not able to report to work; veterans' health and welfare services were curtailed; toxic waste cleanup at 609 sites was halted; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suspended disease surveillance; 368 National Parks were closed, turning away seven million visitors. Even industry and federal spending contracts were hit.

I can't shake the feeling that something about all this sounds vaguely familiar...

During the 1995 budget crisis, Clinton's approval rating plummeted, and pundits predicted certain defeat for Clinton in 1996. However, in early '96 Clinton signed the Telecommunications Act, which enabled corporate consolidation of the media, and expanded corporate welfare. The corporate-owned media rewarded Clinton with favorable coverage throughout 1996, and he went on to win re-election handily.

They used to say history is written by the victors. But today, to a large extent, history is written by the dominant media. Our ancestors of 100 years ago would probably be shocked that, not only do we not actually *talk* to our neighbors, most of us don't even know our neighbors' names.

The last U.S. Civil War veteran died in 1956. The workers who built the railroads, the factories, and the foundations of industry and of the labor movement have all been dead for years. The last living American World War I veteran passed away just recently. It won't be long before the living survivors of the Spanish Civil War, of World War II, of the Holocaust, of the rise of fascism in Europe, of life under Nazi rule, and of the terrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the witnesses of this critical mass of history who today walk among us (or in many cases, are wheeled among us), will all, to a person, pass away from old age. After that, once we lose those voices forever to the pages of history, the new generations will be left to figure out the future for ourselves. But such is the nature of life. It is the challenge every generation has faced – and face it we will, whether we prepare ourselves for it or not.

Next month: ...The future is the past

Centralia Square Antique Mall

3 floors to explore • Restaurant • Bookstore

Directions from Olympia
South on Interstate 5
Off at Exit 82 (Factory Outlets)
East on Harrison
Right on Pearl
201 S Pearl & Locust

Open 7 days
10 to 5

WIP Announcements

Send in announcements to olywip@gmail.com or Works In Progress PO Box 295 Olympia WA 98507

Regularly held events

PFLAG Olympia
2nd Sunday, 2:00 PM
First United Methodist Church
1224 Legion Way SE in Olympia

Sunday, May 8: Representatives from Stonewall Youth's annual drag show will be on hand for a preview and discussion.

Drunken Poetry
Last Word Books
211 East 4th Olympia
3rd Monday, 7:30-9:30pm

Readings operate on a first-come first-serve sign-up basis. Details/requirements are complicated so check out the Last Word Books website for more information. http://www.lastwordbooks.org

Drinking Liberally
1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, 7 pm
Bally Hoo Irish Pub & Restaurant
316 Schmidt Place, Tumwater

Local chapter of loosely structured national organization dedicated to discussion of liberal and progressive politics.

Eloquent Jazz Latin Escapes with Momenti Rubati
Live Jazz every Monday, 7 pm
The Royal Lounge
311 Capitol Way N, Olympia

This special gathering of music lovers meets together to experience the magic and excitement of the Momenti Rubati. Live music unites a community together for festive enjoyment and social fun. We invite you to meet with us, make new friends and relax to the beautiful sounds of the Momenti Rubati. 705-0760 No charge.

Volunteers Needed to Sort and Box Medical Supplies
Providence Health Int'l / CHUMA,
2601 Willamette Drive NE, Suite G, Lacey

No experience is necessary. Volunteers must be at least 14. CHUMA Int'l (Catholic Health United for Medical Assistance) practices global solidarity and environmental stewardship by ensuring useful medical supplies and equipment are shared with charitable health-care organizations in economically developing countries.

Supplies are sent to Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, Cuba, Brazil, Uganda/ other countries. Help CHUMA's volunteer efforts. Ray Reyes 493-5641 raymond.reyes@providence.org

F.O.R. TV Program
Mondays at 1:30 pm
Thursdays at 9:00pm
Channel 22

If you live outside of Thurston County or if you don't have cable TV, you can watch 60+ of Fellowship Of Reconciliation's recent TV programs on your computer! Visit www.olympiafor.org then click the link for TV Programs and click any program you want to watch.

Memoir Writing Group
Tuesdays, 1-3 PM
State Capitol Museum,
211 21st Ave SW, Olympia,
360-753-2580

The Memoir Writing Group at the State Capital Museum has been meeting regularly for nearly two years. The group explores the past through writing and assembling their memoirs. Lead by Delores Kelso Nelson, a writer and teacher in the Olympia area for over 15 years, the memoir class serves participants by igniting lost memories, supporting practicing memoir writers, and offering a chance to socialize. cost is $6 per class or 5 classes for $24

Peace Vigil
NW corner of Sylvester Park
Wednesdays 12 pm: Legion & Capitol

Please come for all or part of the hour to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1980. 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

The Other Bank
Wednesdays 1:00-3:30pm
YWCA, 220 Union Ave SE, Olympia

The YWCA Other Bank provides free hygiene and cleaning supplies to families in need -- items not be purchased with food stamps and not available at food banks, yet are essential for maintaining health and personal dignity. Items include: toilet paper, laundry and dish detergent, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, soap, tampons and pads, cleaning products, etc. 360-352-0593

PLEASE DONATE! Donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

Stonewall Youth Support Groups
Wednesdays -- 705-2738
4:30-6:30pm for 21 and under group
7-9pm for 18+ group.

Stonewall Youth is an organization of youth, activists, and allies that empowers lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQQIA) youth to speak for themselves, educate their communities, and support each other. Stonewall Youth envisions a community in which all queer, gender variant, and gender non-conforming youth have a full spectrum of choices regarding their bodies, self-expression, and legal rights. www.stonwallyouth.org info@stonewallyouth.org

Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP)
Monthly Meetings
2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7 pm

Work on a variety of global and local issues. Larry 866-2404 lmosque-da@comcast.net

Veterans for Peace, locally produced
Wednesdays, 5 pm
Fridays, 9 - 10 pm
Thurston County TV (TCTV)

Info: Dennis Mills 867-1487 mills.dennis@comcast.net

"Parallel University"
Thursdays, 12 - 1 pm:
89.3 FM or kaos.evergreen.edu/

Informative programs about peace, social justice, the environment, progressive politics, and other alternative viewpoints. parralleluniversity@yahoo.com

Women in Black
Every Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm:
W. 4th Avenue, near the fountain

Women only. Please wear black. Some signs are provided. Women in Black is a loose network of women worldwide committed to peace with justice. Info: Karin 754-5352 kraftkf@comcast.net

Percival Landing Peace Vigil
Fridays, 4:30-6pm
4th Avenue and Water Street, Olympia

All welcome to come to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. The Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1998.
491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

Bread and Roses
Saturdays, 1-5 PM
1320 8th Ave SE, Olympia

We're building a food garden! By summertime, every square foot of land at the Bread & Roses community will be growing fruits, nuts, herbs, and vegetables for our community meals and for local soup kitchens and food banks. If you have a pickup truck, have yard tools to loan, passionate about organic gardening or local food security, or if you just like doing fun projects with your neighbors, please join us! There are many ways to be involved (painting, repairs, canning, preparing supper, etc). Followed by Saturday Supper at 6:00pm. Saturday Supper Bread & Roses' volunteer hosts serve a gourmet meal Saturday evenings. http://www.breadandrosesolympia.org 754-4085

Community Special Events

POWER Outage: Mother Care Fair In celebration of Mother's Day, join POWER
Monday, May 2nd, 5:30 - 8:00 pm
Darby's (5th Ave, Olympia)

On the first Monday of every month, POWER (Parents Organization for Welfare and Economic Rights) has a "POWER Outage". In a world where single mothers and their children are the population most likely to live in poverty, let us acknowledge the hard work that goes into mothering.

Bring the kids! Free childcare provided by the fabulous Olympia Childcare Collective.

For accessibility questions or for more info: please call POWER at 360-352-9716 or email welfarerights@riseup.net Search for us on Myspace & Facebook!

5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Potluck, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Mother Care Fair, at Darby's in downtown Olympia. Wheelchair accessible 211 5th Ave SE, across from the Capitol theater (Darby's will be closed for business but open for us!

Bridges Not Walls Olympia meeting
Sunday, May 8, 4PM
MIXX 96 building, State and Washington

Bridges Not Walls, from the South Sound region of Washington State, addresses issues of immigration in our community. We believe immigrants, regardless of legal status, deserve to be treated with dignity. We seek to make our communities a place where the contributions of immigrants are valued and respected. We oppose the fear and intimidation created by immigration enforcement in our region. Therefore, we work in solidarity with the immigrant communities in our area to promote human rights, economic rights and civil rights for all people.

Call 943-8642 for more information.

Community Sustaining Fund grant application deadline
Friday, May 6

The Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County is pleased to announce our Spring 2011 grant cycle. Grant applications are now available to groups and individuals interested in progressive community oriented activities. The deadline for submitting grant applications is Friday, May 6, 2011. Grant criteria and application forms are available on request from Traditions Fair Trade (5th and Water St., Olympia); or via email at thurstoncsf@comcast.net.

Stories of the Wisdom of Ancient Traditions In collaboration with the Bandha Room AshtangaYoga Studio Featuring Steph Donchey on Sitar
Playback Theatre Performance
Friday, May 13, 7:30 pm
Traditions Cafe, 300 5th Ave SW, Olympia

Each month we invite a guest artist, community organization, arts program or social service agency to be a part of our performance. Through this collaboration we acknowledge and honor the work individuals and organizations do in our community.

This month we will be collaborating with the Bandha Room, Olympia's first Ashtanga Yoga Studio.

The Heartsparkle Players' Playback Theatre is a spontaneous collaboration between performers and audience. People tell moments from their lives, then watch them re-created with movement, music and dialogue.

Cost: Suggested donation $5.00-$10.00 (No one is turned away)

Olympia Food Co-op Classes

Register in person at either store between 11am-6pm daily or online at http://www.olympiafood.coop/classes.

When the Kids Move Out: How to Eat In a 1-2 person Household
Taught by Ava Waits.
28 April, Thursday 6:30 - 8:30pm
Location: Fertile Ground Guesthouse

This cooking class is perfect for moms, dads, and families who no longer have to cook for their growing children. We'll discuss quick, smaller meals to satisfy your shrinking family, keep you healthy, and still impress kids when they come home to visit.

Dehydrating Super Food Snacks!
Taught by Allison Hamza.
13 May, Friday 6:30 - 8:30pm
Location: GRuB Farmhouse

Learn to make your own crackers (raw, gluten-free & sugar free), brittle, seasoned sprouted nuts and seeds. We'll practice the recipes, sample finished delights and discuss the nutritional benefits of highly-enzymatic foods!

Cooking with Lentils
Taught by Emily Ray & Lynn Coleman.
16 May, Monday 6:30 - 8:30pm
Location: GRuB Farmhouse

Lentils come in a variety of colors and tastes. They're EASY to cook, tasty, inexpensive, and can be used in dishes from dips and salads to soups and desserts. This class will present uses of lentils that go beyond the standard lentil soup. Whatever their disguise, lentils are incredibly healthful. They provide plenty of dietary fiber, folate, protein, iron, magnesium and zinc. Better yet, they don't contain cholesterol and sodium.

Gluten-Free Bread Baking
Taught by Jenn Kliese.
19 May, Thursday 6:30 - 8:30pm
Location: Fertile Ground Guesthouse

Bread is supposed to be the staff of life, but what do you do when you are gluten intolerant or allergic to wheat? Make Gluten-Free bread of course! You can enjoy again the smells, taste and texture of fresh bread from the oven. Come empower yourself and learn the simple, but unusual techniques to master gluten-free yeasted bread. **all gluten-free with options for dairy-free and egg-free too.

Tempeh Making
Taught by Summer Bock.
27 May, Friday 6:30 - 8:30pm
Location: GRuB Farmhouse

Have you ever wanted to make your own Tempeh? Homemade tempeh is nutty, delicious and unlike anything you've bought in the store. It is a great vegan source of protein and is fermented too! Join Summer Bock for a hands-on tutorial and demonstration so you can learn how to make tempeh from soy beans, sprouted mung, and other beans.

Asian Noodles 2 Ways
Taught by Chie Okazaki.
28 May, Saturday 6:30 - 8:30pm
Location: Fertile Ground Guesthouse

Learn to cook gluten free noodles from other cuisines. We will make Mung Bean threads sauteed with vegetables and finished with a coconut broth and Jap Chae, a Korean Sweet Potato noodle dish with an assortment of veggies with a sesame flavor.

Robert Whitaker, Author/Journalist
Thursday, May 12, 7 pm
Book Signing 6:30 pm
Traditions Café
5th & Water, Olympia

Anatomy of an Epidemic: Magic Bullets, Psychiatric Drugs, and the Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness in America investigates a medical mystery: Why has the number of adults and children disabled by mental disabilities skyrocketed over the past fifty years? There are now more than four million people in the United States who receive a government disability check because of a mental illness, and the number continues to soar. Every day, 850 adults and 250 children with a mental disability are added to the government disability rolls. What is going on?

Contact: Carole Willey, BSW
360-352-5361 Captioned Phone
Sponsors:
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Holistic Health & Advocacy
Levi Chambers
Media Island International
Icarus Project - TESC
POWER

Vigil at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma
Saturday, May 21, 11am

On the 3rd Saturday of each month Bridges Not Walls invites your participation in a vigil at the Northwest Detention Center, which was built on a superfund toxic waste site near downtown Tacoma. Carpool to leave Olympia at 11am from the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural at Capitol and State, and will return to Oly by around 5pm.

The NWDC houses up to 1500 detainees and is run by GEO Group, a for-profit corporation that consumes $150,000 of taxpayers' taxes each night that it's full. Prisons and detention centers are a bizarre growth industry in the US! Bring coffee and food to support families that are visiting their locked-up loved ones; come and also protest a failed immigration policy.

Email bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net or call (503) 970-3399 by Friday, May 15, for more information on what to bring (and what not to bring).

Christ returns
Saturday, May 21, time TBA

A group of Bible experts has examined the Holy Book, and determined that the King of Kings will return to Earth on Saturday, May 21, 2011, to bring his chosen followers unto Heaven. Christ's return will of course be accompanied by natural disasters unprecedented in human history. www.we*can*know.com for more information.

Bridges Not Walls Shelton meeting
Sunday, May 22, 4 pm
943-8642 for more information

Bridges Not Walls to meet at 4pm in downtown Shelton at the Mason County Literacy office. The carpool from Olympia will leave promptly at 3:15 pm from the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural (State and Capitol). 360-943-8642 for more information.

Elwin Cotman/Kim Vodicka Reading
Tuesday, May 31, 6:00pm
Last Word Books
211 East 4th, Olympia

Elwin Cotman has gained a reputation as an energetic storyteller, a skill honed through years in the Washington DC open mic scene. He recently published his first collection of short stories The Jack Daniels Sessions EP through Six Gallery Press. His stories have also been published in has been published in The Fairfield Review, Outsider Ink, the Front Weekly, The Dirty Napkin, the Writers on the Green Line anthology and Cyberpunk Apocalypse.

Kim Vodicka, a poet out of New Orleans will also be reading from several of her self-published chapbooks.

Traditions Cafe & World Folk Art Events
300 5th Avenue SW, Olympia

Hot Club Sandwich
Friday/Saturday April 29/30, 8 pm

Great string swing tonight with the return of Hot Club Sandwich to our stage. Performing from San Francisco to Seattle, New York to Fargo, at clubs, colleges, theaters and ballrooms, festivals and farmers' markets, and on subways and street corners, Hot Club Sandwich has established itself as one of the leading Django-inspired bands on the Northwest's Gypsy jazz scene.
Tickets: $12 Student/low income: $8

Jazz Jam
Sunday, May 1, 2:30 pm

The Jazz community of the South Sound will hold a jazz jam in our cafe on the 1st Sunday of the month. Free to all.

Oly Songwriter Circle
Tuesday, May 3, 7:00 pm -- Free.

Benefit for Tatanka Wambli Society
Friday, May 6, 12:00 am

Mark Growden
Saturday, May 7, 8:00 pm

Gifted songwriter and accordianist and banjo performer Mark Growden makes a first visit to Traditions. Speaking of his new recording..."I grew up in an old logging town, less than a hundred people, on the Sierra Nevada/Cascade Divide," says musician Mark Growden. Lose Me in the Sand is a tribute to Growden's rural mountain roots. His latest album is also a hats-off to the roughshod beginnings of American music and the spirit that music represents. "I'm aware of the choice of these songs and the era we're living in," says Growden. "Lose Me in the Sand is a banjo album. It's about humility." Visit the website.

Jung Society
Sunday, May 8, 7:00 pm -- Free.

Music by the Straw Hat String Band
Sunday, May 8, 2 to 4 pm

On the 2nd Sunday of each month we'll have some free acoustic music in the cafe.The Straw Hat String Band is a fervent acoustic traditional band that does interpretations of many folk genres - Contradance, Irish, Old Timey, Québécois, Métis, American Roots, Blues, Rock, Jazz, and Latin. Free.

Call to Action
Monday, May 9, 7:00 pm -- Free.

Earth Care
Tuesday, May 10, 7:00 pm

Video and discussion. Tonight's film is "Hidden Dangers in Kid's Meals: Genetically Engineered Films. Free.

South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign
Tuesday, May 10, 7:00 pm

This community group formed in 2000 to address sweatshop issues and has focused on getting public institutions to adopt sweatshop free purchasing practices. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month. For more info. go to www.southsoundcleanclothes.org. Free.

NOW Meeting
Tuesday, May 10, 7:00 pm -- Free.

Rethinking Mental Health Treatment
Thursday, May 12, 7:00 pm

Speaker Robert Whitaker -- Free.

Alice Stuart
Saturday, May 14, 8:00 pm

Alice is not just a luminary Northwest blues performer but a National treasure for her singing and her songwriting as well as her trailblazing for women as a lead blues and rock performer. The number of awards she has won over the years are countless. Come see her.
Tickets: $15 Student/low income: $10

A Bluegrass, Acoustic Music Jam
Sunday, May 15, 2:00 pm

This is a 3rd Sunday monthly jam of bluegrass and acoustic musicians. Free.

Uke and Singalong
Monday, May 16, 7:00 pm

Veteran folk musicians and uke enthusiasts and teachers Steve Einhorn and Kate Power bring a community event to Traditions. Free.

Poetry night
Wednesday, May 18, 6:30 pm

Featured poet and open mic. Sponsored by the Olympia Poetry Network. Free.

Plants and Planets
Thursday, May 19, 6:30 pm

This monthly presentation has a $10 requested donation. Free.

Veterans for Peace Meeting
Sunday, May 22, 5:30 pm -- Free.

James Bryan & Carl Jones
Tuesday, May 24, 8:00 pm

James on fiddle from his roots in Alabama as Carl on guitar from his upbringing in Virginia were both inspired by the traditional music of their regions. They came to know each other as friends and in this musical collaboration explore with great skill those traditional roots. This will be a first time at Traditions.
Tickets: $15 Student/low income: $10

Storytelling Event with Kim Weitkamp
Thursday, May 26, 7:00 pm

Bevy
Saturday, May 28, 8:00 pm

This all women musical ensemble is an Olympia favorite. With a wide and full range of instrumentation and musical styles from Latin to jazz you will be fully entertained.
Tickets: $12 Student/low income: $8

BRICK's 8th annual May Day Hoe Down

Saturday, April 30, 7pm-Midnight at the Urban Onion Ballroom. All ages and absolutely free. Brought to you by the SPSCC student club BRICK (Building Revolution by Increasing Community Knowledge.)

▸ **BIOMASS,** continued from page 1

Commissioners to impose a 12-month moratorium on biomass facilities within the county. The moratorium received a huge outpouring of support from a coalition of organizations and individuals throughout the county.

Because of the moratorium, the Sustainability Council thought it unlikely that they would be able to get the necessary permits. They declined a $3.7 million grant from Washington Department of Commerce, who had asked them for a firm commitment by April 1st. They also returned the $125,000 that the Clean Energy Committee had asked them to return to the college's Sustainability Fund.

The biomass facility would have burned two truckloads a day of "woody debris", which they claimed would mostly be slash, a bi-product of logging. Proponents of the facility argued that this project wouldn't have a negative impact on the forest, even though slash provides important nutrients for the forest ecosystem. Evergreen's goal was to be carbon neutral, but this was not carbon neutral - biomass puts more CO_2 into the atmosphere than coal or the natural gas they currently use. It also would burn forests that if left standing provide a carbon sink, taking CO_2 from the atmosphere and holding it into the future.

In addition, there simply wouldn't have been enough slash in the area to feed the facility.

According to the American Lung Association, "Burning biomass could lead to significant increases in emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and sulfur dioxide and have severe impacts on the health of children, older adults, and people with lung diseases." The Evergreen facility was planned to be built within a 200 ft. of the Campus Children's Center.

If Evergreen had been allowed to go through with this project, it would have set a precedent for other "green" colleges and communities around the country. "This is a major victory for more than the forests and those of us that breath in Olympia, said Danielle Segal of Olympia Rising Tide. "It is a victory for those fighting biomass all over the country. Many people look up to Evergreen as a leader in sustainability. By exposing the true cost of burning biomass here, we hope to expose the true cost burning biomass everywhere."

▸ **CAPITOL,** continued from page 6

bled press.

Eli and I arrived early. Shortly after our arrival they shut out the public until they could assemble a small army of police officers to oversee the large crowd — which consisted mostly of single mothers and interns from POWER. Evidently our mighty state government was scared to death of this dangerous gang of single mothers. Before the press conference began – when just Eli, myself, and four reporters were in the room – the Hollow Earth reporter informed the KOMO representative that several spokespersons of the people who were being cut were waiting outside and asked if he might want to speak with them. The KOMO reporter literally turned up his nose in disgust and shook his head. When the "public" was finally "allowed" in, Austin Jenkins of NPR interviewed Laura Studebaker, a low-income mother of two and a POWER volunteer. After the senators finished with their hour of boasting about their bi-partisan fleecing of the workers, students, and low-income citizens of Washington, I stood and loudly asked if after listening to the cutters there might be any journalists who would be interested in speaking with the cut?

I was ignored. Rudely so. They obviously had absolutely no interest. I already knew they worked for the bad guys. This made it personal, though. "Corporate shills" was one of several epithets I hurled in their direction.

Eli read his prepared statement from the Occupier 9 to the reporter from Hollow Earth News. Everyone else ignored him. He did manage to hand a printed copy of his statement to Senator Ed Murray who said he appreciated what we were doing and who promised to read it but he seemed too preoccupied glad-handing reporters to pay much serious attention. A reporter from the *Tribune* spoke with Monica, the director of POWER. Otherwise they all walked out in contempt. I stood outside the door (surrounded by several dozen State Patrol officers) as the reporters filed out and asked each their affiliation. I informed them that I networked with several thousand people and that I would certainly let them know about their attitude toward the real people of the state. CBS and NBC were represented, but KOMO and Fox were the worst. The KOMO reporter was overheard by one of Monica's interns to say to one of the police officers, "I thought you said you weren't going to let the riff-raff in." I suggest everyone send letters to KOMO expressing dismay and disgust and letting them know you will be boycotting their news channel from now on. I told the Fox reporter that since everyone I knew already boycotted their channel then I couldn't threaten her with anything.

They still aren't listening. We obviously need to be louder.

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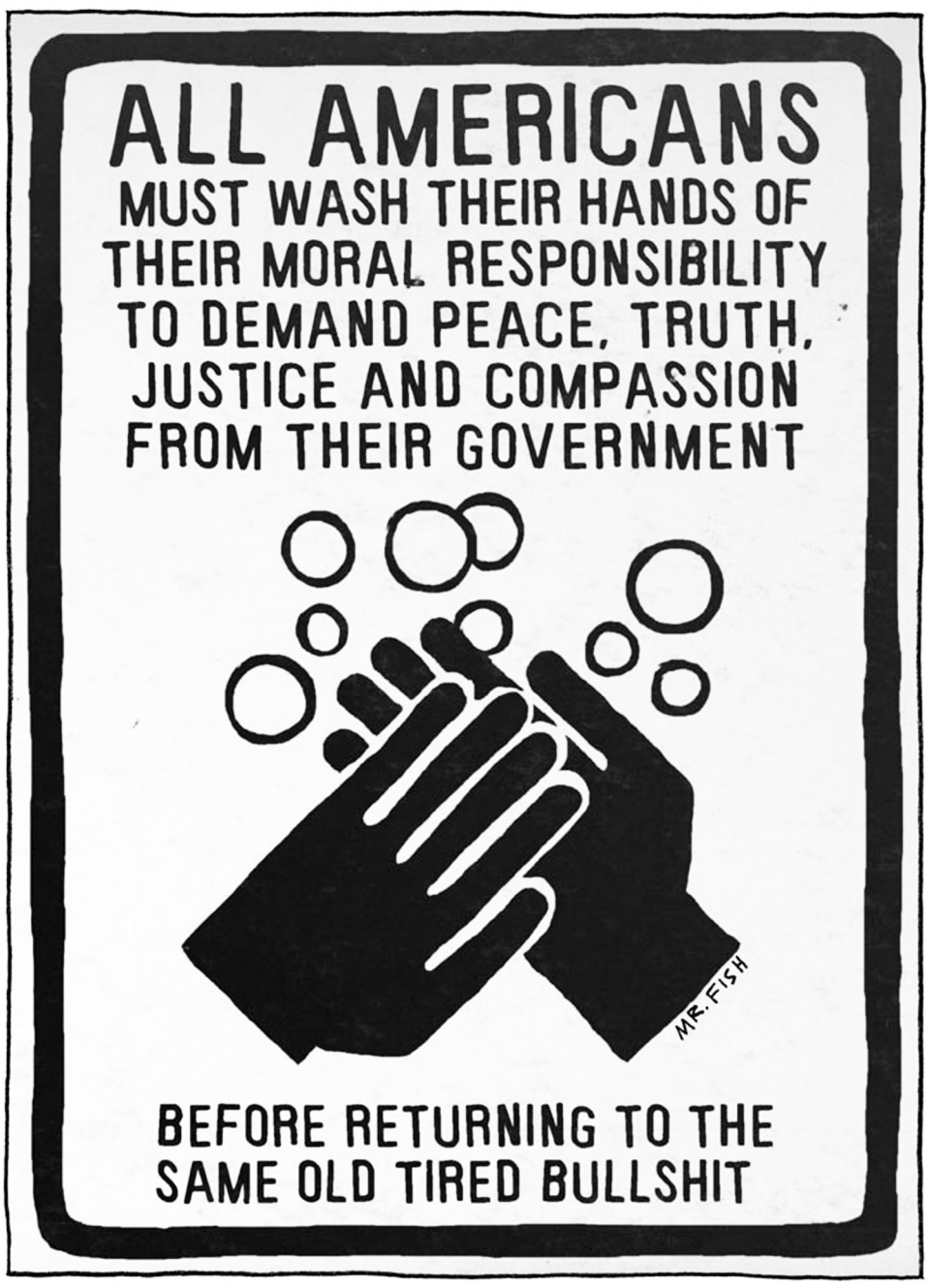

Above: Workers with YouthBuild who, in cooperation with Community Youth Services, New Market Skills Center, and Homes for Humanity, built three portable homes for Camp Quixote.

SUPPORT CAMP QUIXOTE!!!

Come to the City of Olympia Planning Commission public hearing on PANZA's request for a zoning change that will allow PANZA to build Quixote Village on a county-owned site inside the Olympia city limits on Mottman Road. A big show of community support is needed to help speed this process along. Bring friends!

Monday, May 2, 6:30 PM - New Olympia City Hall

For more information, contact PANZA at tucocamp@gmail.com

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507